American Time Use Survey (ATUS) Data Dictionary:

2005 Trips Data

ATUS Variables about Trips

July 2006

No weights have been generated for Trips data

Important Information about the ATUS Trips Data Dictionary

Introduction

The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the Census Bureau. The purpose of this document is to provide information about the variables available from one of the 2005 ATUS public use data files, the Trips file. This file contains supplemental information gathered through the 2005 ATUS interviews about how many times in a given month respondents were away from home for at least two nights.

This data dictionary lists all the variables available on the Trips file and their valid values. It also provides directions on how to read the data dictionary.

Three additional data dictionaries describe other ATUS public use data files. One describes the 2005 ATUS-CPS file, which contains data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) public use files for those selected to be surveyed for ATUS and members of their households. (The information on the ATUS-CPS file was collected two to five months before the ATUS interview and in some cases was out of date at the time of the ATUS survey.) The 2005 ATUS interview data dictionary describes the variables available on four files: the Roster file, the Activity file, the Who file, and the Respondent file. These variables are collected and assigned in the ATUS interview. The final public use data dictionary describes the 2005 ATUS survey methodology data, made up of the Case History file and the Call History file. These additional data dictionaries are available on the ATUS website at http://www.bls.gov/tus/datafiles_2005.htm.

Important Note

The core of the ATUS is the time diary, which contains information on the respondent's activities on the day prior to the interview. Because the ATUS only asks respondents about "yesterday," the survey may underestimate activities that occur on overnight trips away from home. Therefore, after the time diary is completed, respondents are asked a series of questions about trips away from home for 2 or more nights in a row. This information was collected and released in this file to provide researchers with some information about the number, duration, and purpose of overnight trips. The additional information about the purpose of trips may be used to adjust time-use estimates to correct for any bias that is introduced by the yesterday report method.

Please note that the 2005 Trips file does not contain weights. Therefore, these data should be used with caution:

1) Results from using unweighted data will not be representative of the population

2) Neither the ATUS final weights nor the ATUS base weights, which are designed to be used with data in other ATUS files, are appropriate for use with the Trips file

Unweighted ATUS data are not representative of the population due to differences between population groups in both sampling and non-response. To create weighted, representative estimates, the ATUS Respondent and Replicate Weights files contain two types of weights. The ATUS base weights (TUBWGT) account for differences in sampling intervals for respondents but not differences in non-response. The ATUS final weights (TUFINLWGT) account for differences in sampling and non-response between demographic groups. (See Chapter 3 of the Users' Guide for more information on sampling: http://www.bls.gov/tus/atususersguide.pdf.)

Neither of these weights is appropriate for use with the trips data. Specifically, the ATUS final weights (TUFINLWGT) have been designed for time-diary data where the reference period is the previous day. The reference period for trips data is either the month before the initial contact attempt or two months prior to the interview month, whichever is most recent. Because weekdays are undersampled as diary reference days and are accordingly assigned larger weights, use of TUFINLWGT to weigh the trips data would give observations with weekday reference days disproportionate representation. There is also no simple correspondence between diary day and reference month for the trips data; respondents for the same diary date may have different reference months.

2005 ATUS Trips File

This file contains all variables collected in ATUS in 2005 about the trips people took in which they were away from home for at least two nights. These include a trip identification number, the month and year about which the information was asked, the number of nights the respondent was away on a given trip, and the purpose of the trip.

Below is a simplified example. Each ATUS respondent has a different TUCASEID, so the example contains responses from three individuals. Respondents list the number of trips they took (TUTRV1) in a given month (TUTRMNYR), and each trip has its own trip identification number (TUTRIP_LN). The first respondent (20050101020210) reported taking one trip and has associated descriptive variables: trip purpose (TUTRV2), and total nights away from home (TUTRV5). The second respondent (20050101020211) reported taking no trips, so the descriptive variables about trips are missing (-1). The third respondent (20050101020212) reported taking three trips. Notice that the responses to TUTRV1 and TUTRMNYR are the same for all three trips for 20050101020212. The actual ATUS Trips file contains additional variables and many more lines.

TUCASEID	TUTRV1	TUTRIP_LN	TUTRV2	TUTRV5	TUTRMNYR
20050101020210	1	1	1	2	200504
20050101020211	0	-1	-1	-1	200502
20050101020212	3	1	5	2	200503
20050101020212	3	2	5	3	200503
20050101020212	3	3	4	4	200502

Valid Values

Each variable on the Trips file has a number of valid values or a range of valid values. For example, the variable TUTRV31 has two valid values: 0 for "yes" and 2 for "no." The variable TUTRV5, on the other hand, has a range of valid values – any entry between 2 and 31 is considered valid. Individual valid values or a range of valid values are listed under most variables in the data dictionary.

Many ATUS variables have the following possible valid values:

Value	Description
-1	Blank
-2	Don't know
-3	Refused

Since so many variables have these possible values, they are not shown as valid entries for each variable.

TUCASEID, the primary identifier for ATUS cases, does not list either valid values or a range of valid values.

ATUS Naming Conventions and Definitions

ATUS variables are named according to specified rules. All variables on the Trips file begin with "TU", which indicates that the variables were either (1) collected or assigned during the ATUS interview, or (2) computed by the processing system. All trips variables are unedited, and there are no allocation procedures for missing data. The remaining characters after the "TU" consist of a descriptive name.

Not all ATUS variables are on the public use files. Some variables are omitted to protect the confidentiality of ATUS respondents as required by law.

Organization of the Trips Data Dictionary

Variables are listed in the data dictionary in alphabetical order.

Below is a sample entry from the ATUS trips data dictionary:

| Description of variable or question wording used to collect data | | Identifies on which ATUS file the variable is located |

| Name of variable | | |

| TUTRV31 | Other main purpose: school related activities | Trips File |

Valid Entries: 0   No
                      1   Yes

| The valid entries may be either a list of valid values or a maximum and a minimum value |

* Note: Only asked if TUTRV2 = 3

| Additional notes about the variable |
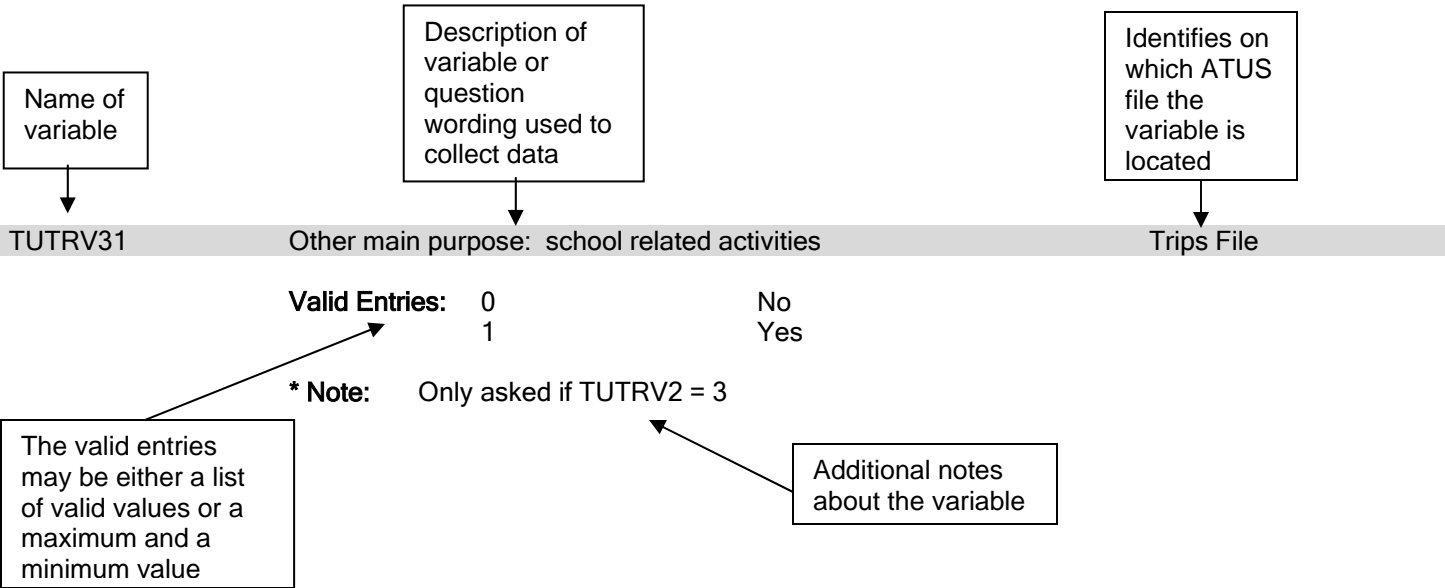
Linking ATUS Public Use Files

Each of the ATUS public use files contains useful information, but in order to produce most estimates, the files must be linked. All of the public use files contain the variable TUCASEID, which is the ATUS identification number. Two other variables that can be used for linking in conjunction with TUCASEID are TULINENO (person line number) and TUACTIVITY_N (activity line number).

File	Linking Variables
Basic ATUS data files	
Respondent file	TUCASEID TULINENO (always equal to 1 on the Respondent file)
Roster file	TUCASEID TULINENO
Activity file	TUCASEID TUACTIVITY_N
Who file	TUCASEID TUACTIVITY_N TULINENO
ATUS-CPS file	TUCASEID TULINENO
Activity Summary file	TUCASEID
Additional ATUS data files	
Case History file	TUCASEID
Call History file	TUCASEID
Trips file	TUCASEID
Replicate Weights file	TUCASEID

The ATUS public use files can also be linked to CPS public use files. More information is available in the ATUS-CPS data dictionary.

2005 ATUS Data Dictionary: Public Trips Data

Name	Description			File
TUCASEID	ATUS Case ID (14-digit identifier)			All Files
TUTRIP_LN	Trip line number			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	1	Min Value	
		15	Max Value	
TUTRMNYR	Month about which trips questions were asked			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	200510	Min Value	
		200611	Max Value	
	* Note: TUTRMNYR is in YYYYMM format			
TUTRV1	How many times were you away from home in TUTRMNYR? Only report times when you were away from home for 2 or more nights in a row.			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	0	Min Value	
		15	Max Value	
TUTRV2	Main purpose of trip			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	1	Vacation or visiting friends/relatives	
		2	Business or work	
		3	Something else (see TUTRV31 - TUTRV34)	
		4	Multiple purposes (see TUTRV41 - TUTRV46)	
TUTRV31	Other main purpose: school related activities			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	0	No	
		1	Yes	
	* Note: Only asked if TUTRV2 = 3			
TUTRV32	Other main purpose: weddings or funerals			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	0	No	
		1	Yes	
	* Note: Only asked if TUTRV2 = 3			
TUTRV33	Other main purpose: medical reasons			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	0	No	
		1	Yes	
	* Note: Only asked if TUTRV2 = 3			
TUTRV34	Other main purpose: other			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	0	No	
		1	Yes	
	* Note: Only asked if TUTRV2 = 3			
TUTRV41	Multiple reasons for trip: vacation or visiting friends/relatives was one reason for trip			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	0	No	
		1	Yes	
	* Note: Only asked if TUTRV2 = 4			
TUTRV42	Multiple reasons for trip: business or work was one reason for trip			Trips File
	Valid Entries:	0	No	
		1	Yes	
	* Note: Only asked if TUTRV2 = 4			
TUTRV43	Multiple reasons for trip: school related activities was one reason for trip			Trips File

Name	Description	File
	Valid Entries: 0 No 1 Yes *** Note:** Only asked if TUTRV2 = 4	
TUTRV44	Multiple reasons for trip: weddings or funerals was one reason for trip	Trips File
	Valid Entries: 0 No 1 Yes *** Note:** Only asked if TUTRV2 = 4	
TUTRV45	Multiple Reasons for trip: medical reasons was one reason for trip	Trips File
	Valid Entries: 0 No 1 Yes *** Note:** Only asked if TUTRV2 = 4	
TUTRV46	Multiple reasons for trip: other reason was one reason for trip	Trips File
	Valid Entries: 0 No 1 Yes *** Note:** Only asked if TUTRV2 = 4	
TUTRV5	Number of nights away for trip	Trips File
	Valid Entries: 2 Min Value 31 Max Value	